

From: [Melissa Sawyer](#)
To: [Tenisha Stevens](#); [Emily F. Wolff](#)
Cc: [LeBato, Christopher](#); [Judge Johnson \(fourwakes@gmail.com\)](#)
Subject: Update on YEP's involvement with the ERC
Date: Monday, May 20, 2019 12:51:26 PM
Attachments: YEP ERC Update 5.20.19.pdf
Importance: High

EMAIL FROM EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Tenisha and Emily,

Good afternoon. I hope you both had a nice weekend.

I'd like to thank you again for inviting YEP to participate in the process of developing an alternative to detention program over the past months. We've been honored to be at the table for such an important and potentially impactful discussion.

Over the weekend our board and leadership team have had the opportunity to further discuss our ongoing involvement in the ERC pilot project. It is with great regret that at this time we feel obliged to withdraw from our proposed role as the operator of the ERC. Attached to this email is a letter articulating our reasons for this decision. Ultimately, we acknowledge that the environment surrounding this project has shifted dramatically since we began planning for it and we must return our attention to our core organizational purpose and the 1,200 individuals served by our current programs.

As we've expressed in the attached letter, we remain deeply committed to providing critical services to young people across the city, and we look forward to continuing to explore opportunities for partnership with the City, City Council, and Juvenile Court.

Thank you both for your devoted attention to improving the lives of young people in New Orleans.

Sincerely,
Melissa

Melissa Sawyer | Co-Founder and Executive Director/CEO

